

VIA: \_\_\_\_\_  
(SPECIFY AIR OR SEA POUCH)

DISPATCH NO. EGMA-27114

**SECRET** MICROFILMED  
MAY 24 1956  
CLASSIFICATION

TO : Chief, IO  
THRU: Chief, EE  
FROM : Chief of Base, Munich

DOC. MICRO. SER. 31 May 1957

INFO: COS, Germany  
SR

SUBJECT: GENERAL—Operational/DTDORIC/REDWOOD

SPECIFIC—

Conversation with Ambassador SMIRNOW

1. [ ] during the course of a fishing weekend, described to [ ] - in the former's amusing and inimitable way - SMIRNOW's poser as to whether or not [ ] was "truly running the radio operations in Munich." [ ] asked [ ] if he would be good enough to dash off an informal but detailed memo covering the substance of [ ] conversation with the Ambassador.

2. The memorandum is forwarded herewith for whatever interest Headquarters may have in it; and also as an indication of [ ] potentialities for obtaining possibly useful bits and pieces of political information by dint of his well-known disarming and free-wheeling manners.

3. [ ] has agreed to "keep in touch" with undersigned on a continuing basis if he comes across anything which might appear interesting.

Attachment:  
a/s HEREWITH

Distribution:

- ✓ 3 - IO w/2 co. att.
- 1 - KUDOVE (Attn: [ ])
- 1 - SR w/1 co. att.
- 2 - COS/G w/1 co. att.

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[ ] w/1 c8416t2007

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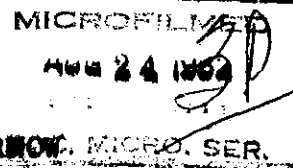
## MEMORANDUM

OF CONVERSATION WITH AMBASSADOR SMIRNOW. MICRO. SER.

on May 8th at Rolandseck

I was requested to see Smirnow at 3.30 at his office in Rolandseck after having called for an interview. I had known Smirnow first in Berlin in 1937 when he was an unknown TASS correspondent and again in 1942 in Tehran when he was the Soviet Ambassador.

I was ushered into a large waiting room where several other people were sitting. They were promptly whisked away. A few minutes later a secretary speaking German showed me into a much larger and better furnished living room. After waiting another ten minutes Smirnow appeared smiling affably. We exchanged the usual greetings, discussing our state of health etc. Then he suddenly said, "There is only one question I would like to ask you. With your hand on your heart and as a friend of twenty years standing tell me truthfully: are you running the radio operations in Munich?" He said he asked because he had heard that I was living very luxuriously in Munich and was obviously very rich. He had been told when he was in Vienna last year that I was behind the radio operations directed against the Soviet Union. I replied that I had been asked to resign from the Foreign Service by Mr. Dulles and was not particularly keen to work for the Government and had severed all connections and was presently a complete free person with nothing whatever to do with any Government operations in Munich. I added that, however, since I was interested in affairs in Eastern Europe the fact that the radio operations produced a great deal of



information on those countries I had been influenced by them insofar as information was concerned to make my residence in Munich. He smiled at my answer although I could not tell whether he gave it very much credit, commenting only that his curiosity had been aroused by the statement of a "passer-through" in Vienna that this was my present job.

He asked me what I had been doing since we last met in Tehran and after I had run through my activities he told me that he had been taken ill in Tehran and had been moved back to Moscow where he had been more or less on sick leave until after the War but still connected with the Foreign Office. He said that in 1946 he had visited the United States on a trip with Molotov to the UN. On that occasion he had few chances to leave New York city but had been impressed by the vitality of the place. He added that in those days it had been possible to discuss Soviet - American relations dispassionately but that this was no longer true.

He decried the state of relations with the United States and said, of course I knew, the Soviets' only desire was peaceful economic competition with the U.S. "We will leave you alone if you leave us alone -- you know what our policy has always been." I replied that I had a fair idea of what their policy had always been and said I only hoped that rash heads would not do foolish things. He said there were no rash heads in Moscow. I suggested that under Stalin there had been a good many rash movements by the Soviet Union and hoped that under the new collective leadership that would not be repeated.

He said that McCarthy and the FBI had done much to frighten the United States. I replied that McCarthy certainly had tried but was fortunately quieted. As for the FBI it inspired far

less fear than many police organs I had encountered in other countries. He asked if I referred to the Gestapo; I said that was not the one I had in mind.

Smirnow asked why Bohlen had left the Soviet Union. (He was obviously unaware until I mentioned it that Bohlen was any relation of mine). I gave him the usual answer. He said that he had met Thompson in Munich and found him most agreeable. Other members of the Soviet Mission in Vienna had told him that Thompson was a most "tastful", "restrained" and "competent" man and he was looking forward to a good period with him as ambassador in Moscow. He also spoke highly of Jane Thompson and said that he had met the children in Vienna.

Smirnow asked about Eisenhower's health and also about the state of the American economy which I naturally told him was booming. He asked what candidates the Democratic Party were likely to put up in 1960. I said it was pretty early but that the current contestants included Lyndon Johnson and perhaps William Fulbright, both of them very fine Senators. He said they were not as prominent as, let us say, Dewey or La Guardia. I commented that Krushchev had not been very prominent when Stalin died. Smirnow said Krushchev had been very well known within the Soviet Union.

When I asked him about a visa for the Soviet Union he showed no interest and said that he did not have anything to do with visas but that I could apply to his consular section any time I wanted to.

He stated among other things that his two children were at University in Moscow and that his wife spent a good deal of time in Moscow although she was presently in Bonn. When I hinted I'd like to pay my respects to her and renew our old Berlin